

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT



Office of Public Information

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEBRA A. GUTIERREZ-MCGUIRE NAMED SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO CHIEF JUSTICE CORRIGAN

LANSING, MI, July 21, 2003 – Attorney Debra A. Gutierrez-McGuire, a Commissioner of the Michigan Supreme Court, has been appointed Special Assistant to Chief Justice Maura D. Corrigan on Foster Care Issues, the Michigan Supreme Court announced today.

Corrigan said that Gutierrez-McGuire’s duties will include “identifying problems in the foster care and adoption system, and making recommendations to promote earlier permanent placements for children.”

Gutierrez-McGuire “is the right person in the right job,” Corrigan added. “Her years of experience representing children, coupled with her legal expertise, made her the natural choice for this position.”

Gutierrez-McGuire began her career as a Juvenile Defender with Detroit-based Legal Aid and Defender Association (LADA) in 1985. She represented children in abuse and neglect cases, which often involved termination of parental rights proceedings, on both the trial and appellate level. She also served as an Assistant Attorney General, representing the Family Independence Agency in Wayne County.

In 1988, Gutierrez-McGuire joined the State Appellate Defender’s Office (SADO), where she specialized in representing children who had been tried as adults in criminal cases. She briefly returned to LADA in 2000 to represent children in abuse and neglect cases, then came back to SADO, where she remained until joining the Michigan Supreme Court as a Commissioner in August 2002. The Michigan Supreme Court Commissioners are the Court’s permanent legal research staff.

Gutierrez-McGuire also serves on an adoption work group convened by Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Maura D. Corrigan in cooperation with Family Independence Agency Director Nanette Bowler. The work group is studying ways to improve the adoption process in Michigan and is expected to issue recommendations in August.

Gutierrez-McGuire, whose family are long-time residents of Holland, Michigan, received her undergraduate degree from Michigan State University in 1982 and her law degree from Wayne State University Law School in 1985. She resides in Grosse Pointe Park with her husband, Daniel McGuire, and their two sons.

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